

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

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USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11356

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-L
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: REPORT ON CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S MEETING
WITH GDR PERMREP KOHL

REFS: (A) BONN 11166, (B) BONN 11165

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JUNE 19, THE FRG BONN GROUP REP
(VON BRAUNMUEHL) PROVIDED THE BONN GROUP WITH A DE-
TAILED BRIEFING ON THE MEETING BETWEEN CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT AND GDR PERMREP KOHL (REF A). THE REPORT OF
THE MEETING CONTAINS NO SURPRISES. THE MEETING COVERED MUCH OF
THE SAME GROUND AS THAT COVERED BY THE GAUS/HONECKER
MEETING (REF B). VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT THE REPORT
OF THE SCHMIDT/KOHL MEETING WAS BEING VERY CLOSELY
HELD WITHIN THE FRG AND ASKED THAT WE TREAT THIS IN-
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FORMATION ACCORDINGLY. END SUMMARY

1. AT A BONN GROUP MEETING JUNE 19, THE FRG REP (VON
BRAUNMUEHL) GAVE A MORE DETAILED BRIEFING OF CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT'S MEETING JUNE 14 (REF A) WITH GDR PERMANENT
REPRESENTATION CHIEF MICHAEL KOHL. DURING THE ONE AND
ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING, KOHL HANDED OVER A LETTER FROM

GDR PRESIDENT HONECKER, WHICH RESPONDED TO A LETTER CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD SENT IN JUNE 1977. KOHL, WHO HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING, OFFERED INTERPRETATIONS NOT ONLY OF HONECKER'S LETTER BUT OF THE JUNE 12 MEETING BETWEEN HONECKER AND FRG STATE SECRETARY GAUS (REF B).

2. KOHL'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHANCELLOR REFLECTED IN ALL ESSENTIAL POINTS THE GDR PROPOSALS MADE IN THE HONECKER-GAUS MEETING, BUT ADDED THE FOLLOWING NUANCES AND INTERPRETATIONS.

3. SCHMIDT/HONECKER MEETING: KOHL SAID HONECKER WOULD WELCOME THE IDEA OF AN OFFICIAL (COMMENT: "OFFICIAL" WAS EMPHASIZED. END COMMENT) VISIT BY THE CHANCELLOR TO THE GDR. KOHL, HOWEVER, DID NOT MAKE A FORMAL INVITATION. HE ALSO NOTED HONECKER'S VIEW THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD MAKE SENSE ONLY IF A USEFUL RESULT FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF INNER GERMAN RELATIONS COULD BE EXPECTED. HONECKER FELT, HOWEVER, THERE IS A DANGER THAT SUCH A VISIT COULD GENERATE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS AND COULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD UNLESS CERTAIN (UNDEFINED) PREREQUISITES ARE FULFILLED.

4. THE CHANCELLOR SAID THE FRG'S POSITION WAS UNCHANGED. SCHMIDT WAS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO MAKE A VISIT ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. A VISIT WOULD ALSO DEPEND ON
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DEVELOPMENT OF A FAVORABLE CLIMATE AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY. VON BRAUNMUEHL EMPHASIZED THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO CONCRETE PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR A VISIT TO THE GDR.

5. BERLIN: HONECKER'S LETTER DID NOT MENTION BERLIN BUT THE CHANCELLOR MADE COMMENTS "OF PRINCIPLE" ON THE BERLIN SITUATION ALONG THE LINES OF THE POINTS MADE TO BREZHNEV (BONN 8990). KOHL REPLIED THAT THE GDR ALSO DID NOT WISH TO AFFECT "THE STATUS." KOHL CONFIRMED THAT GAUS WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN THE GDR ABOUT THE TRAFFIC REGIME (TELTOW CANAL).

6. DETENTE: BOTH SIDES MENTIONED DETENTE, THE CHANCELLOR EMPHASIZING THAT A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES WAS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO DETENTE IN EUROPE.

7. CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS

(A) DEMARCATION OF BORDERS: KOHL SAID THE GDR WAS PREPARED TO CONCLUDE THE WORK OF THE BORDER COMMISSION. SUCH A CONCLUSION WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRIVED AT VIA A

BINDING DOCUMENT, IN A DIGNIFIED ("WUERDIGER") FORM
AND AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL. THE GDR BELIEVED IT

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POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO AN INTERIM SETTING ASIDE OF THE
ELBE BORDER QUESTION BUT THAT CONTINUATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED FOR IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT. VON
BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT, IN THE FRG'S VIEW, NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH
A CLAUSE WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT.

(B) NORTH AUTOBAHN: ELABORATING ON THE HONECKER-GAUS
MEETING, KOHL NOTED THAT THE GDR PREFERRED TO HAVE THE
NEW AUTOBAHN FROM BERLIN TURN AT WITTSTOCK (SOUTH OF
ROSTOCK IN THE GDR) AND PROCEED TO HAMBURG. THIS WAS
A MATTER FOR THE GDR'S SOVEREIGN DECISION BUT ONE WHICH
COULD BE "COORDINATED" WITH THE FRG. THE NEGOTIATIONS
SHOULD BEGIN WITH THE SUBJECT OF THE CROSSING POINTS.
THE CROSSING POINT AT THE NORTH OF BERLIN WOULD HAVE TO
BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE SENAT. THE GDR ASSUMES THERE
WILL BE TWO CROSSING POINTS, ONE FOR TRAFFIC BETWEEN
BERLIN AND THE GDR AND ANOTHER FOR TRANSIT TRAFFIC.

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THE CHANCELLOR REPLIED THAT THE NORTH AUTOBAHN WAS A MATTER FOR NEGOTIATION AND THUS HE DID NOT WISH TO GO INTO DETAIL ON IT.

(C) TRANSIT WATERWAYS: KOHL REITERATED THE GDR'S POSITION THAT THE FRG WOULD EITHER HAVE TO PAY HIGHER FEES OR CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF RECONSTRUCTION. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THE FRG FEELS THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THE FRG CANNOT AVOID THIS PROBLEM. BEFORE MAKING A DECISION, HOWEVER, THE FRG WANTS TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH THE INNER-GERMAN SOUNDINGS, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY GOING ON.

(D) POTASH MINING: THE GDR WANTS THE FRG TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN ORDER TO REDUCE DAMAGE TO THE GDR DEPOSITS. THE GDR IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE POLLUTION OF THE WERRA RIVER AT THE SAME TIME.

(E) REDUCED AGE LIMITS FOR GDR TRAVEL TO FRG: KOHL SAID NO CONCESSIONS COULD BE EXPECTED ON THE QUESTION OF LOWERING THE AGE LIMIT OF PEOPLE PERMITTED TO GO TO THE FRG FROM THE GDR. THE CHANCELLOR COMMENTED THAT LOWERING THE AGE LIMIT WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE GDR AS WELL AS THE FRG (COMMENT: NO REASON WAS GIVEN BUT THE RATIONALE IS PRESUMABLY THAT IT WOULD HELP VENT INTERNAL PRESSURES IN THE GDR. END COMMENT).

(F) JUNE 17TH: KOHL CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE EVENTS PLANNED FOR JUNE 17 IN BERLIN AND THEIR SURROUNDING ASPECTS WOULD NOT PROMOTE A GOOD CLIMATE.

8. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT GAUS AND NIER WILL SOON DISCUSS THE TELTOW CANAL,
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THEREBY GIVING THE DESIRED FRG/GDR COVER TO THE SUBJECT. THE SENAT WILL THEREAFTER CONFINE ITSELF TO "TECHNICAL" TALKS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE BK/O ON THE SUBJECT.
STOESSEL

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